

Application Serial No. 10/524,695
Reply to Office Action of March 18, 2008

PATENT
Docket: CU-4085

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SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW WITH EXAMINER

Applicant's undersigned representative spoke with the Examiner of record, Examiner Jay Ripley, by telephone today (May 19, 2008). The restriction requirement issued July 9, 2007 in this application was reviewed, as was Applicant's election of Group I (original claims 1-5), directed to a "means for connecting pipes". Other Office Actions and responses to those Actions were also reviewed. The undersigned representative provided the Examiner with a copy of the bibliographic page and claim page of a European application counterpart to the present application, now granted as EP 1 534 986 B1. The undersigned representative directed the Examiner's attention to granted European claim 10, submitted to the Examiner that this claim is directed to a means for connecting pipes in keeping with the invention elected in response to the July 2007 Office Action, and respectfully requested that the Examiner allow the claim to be submitted and prosecuted in this application. The Examiner reviewed European claim 10 and responded that such a claim does not fall with the scope of the elected invention in view of the positive recitation of a preloading tool; the Examiner further indicated that elements of non-elected claim 6 may not be combined with the elements of claim 1 at this stage of prosecution. The Examiner also advised that prosecuting a version of European claim 10 (or the claims pending in this application prior to the filing of this Amendment) would constitute an undue burden on the Examiner to search the art for a preloading tool not previously elected or searched for. Accordingly, the Examiner rejected the undersigned representative's request to accept the pending claims, or a version of granted European claim 10, for further prosecution.

INTERVIEW RECORD

NOT OK

SEE ACCOMPANYING OFFICE ACTION
FOR DETAILS

JRR 29 AUG 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

the Examiner indicates that claims 10-20 are directed to a non-elected invention. While Applicant does not necessarily agree with this or other of the Examiner's statements in the present Action, Applicant respectfully withdraws claims 10-20 and submits new claims 21-24 are directed to the invention designated as Group I in the Office Action dated July 9, 2007.